AN

HISTORICAL ACCOUNT

OF THE

PLAGUE

AND

Other Pestilential Distempers,

WHICH HAVE

APPEARED IN EUROPE, MORE ESPECIALLY IN ENGLAND,

FROM THE EARLIEST PERIOD.

To which is added,

AN ACCOUNT OF THE

CHOLERA MORBUS,

From its first appearance in India,

INCLUDING ITS RAVAGES

IN ASIA, EUROPE, AND AMERICA,

TO THE PRESENT TIME.

PRICE EIGHTEENPENCE.

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PREFACE.

It appears scarcely necessary for the Editor of the following pages, to state at any great length, the reasons which have induced him to present this little work before the public. So universal has been the anxious concern of all ranks and classes to obtain definite, and as far as possible, satisfactory information, relative to the nature and origin of the fatal epidemic disease, now raging in our land, that every attempt to direct the serious attention of mankind to this awful scourge, must be regarded as neither superfluous, nor ill-timed. The arm of the Almighty is so evidently laid bare before us, in this widely wasting malady, that we are solemnly called upon to abstract our attention from all secondary causes, and to view with reverential awe and deep submission, the affliction of the divine displeasure, in this visitation. The skill of man appears to be so utterly baffled, by the rapid and almost instantaneous fatality of this angel of destruction; the wisdom of man is so entirely set at naught, by the eccentricity and apparent in-

congruity of its journeyings, that we are forced to recognise in this "*pestilence, that walketh in darkness,*" and in this "*sickness, that wasteth at noon-day,*" the direct and immediate workings of that Mighty One, who maketh "*the clouds his chariot, and walketh on the wings of the wind.*"

Much ingenious discussion has arisen upon the point, whether the Cholera Morbus, as now fearfully prevalent amongst us, be a specifically new disease, or whether it presents the characteristics of maladies already existing, with vastly aggravated symptoms, and increased rapidity of operation; it has also been doubted whether it is the real Indian Spasmodic Cholera, brought over to Europe, or whether it is, as with us, the disease known by the name of English Cholera, with a greatly augmented fatality. It is a matter of historical fact, as will be seen in the following pages, that at various periods even from the earliest times, violently infectious and destructive disorders, have been permitted to desolate large portions of our globe; or to ravage particular districts and nations, and whether they be regarded as special and commissioned messengers of vengence from God, as a punishment to particular nations, for specific crimes; or be esteemed as the result of natural and physi-

cal causes, mysteriously operating ; they have been fearfully active in the destruction of human life, and are calculated to excite the most serious attention. It may be that the more elevated tone of our domestic habits, and the higher state of civilization, to which we have arrived, have tended to lessen the frequency, and to moderate the malignity of these awful calamities ; for certainly during the last century, Europe, and especially our own country, have been little afflicted with these scourges, and they have been confined either to Asia, or the less cultivated parts of our portion of the globe.

This disease seemed at first to confine its ravages to the destitute, the profligate, and the licentious; but as it advanced in its course it has visited indiscriminately, almost every rank in society, and every grade of character, thus inducing us to mark its operations, with more painful and alarming interest.

Feeling in common with others, a natural anxiety upon the subject of this disease, the Editor met with a scarce and valuable work, published in 1743, by R. Goodwin, M. D. containing a succinct account of the principal infectious disorders, which had afflicted Europe from the earliest period. The phraseology was so quaint, and so much extra-

neous matter had been introduced, that it was found necessary to remodel the whole, as well as in some degree to modernise the language, without however altering the historical accuracy of the accounts. Much original matter has been introduced, and considerable pains taken to give interest to the narration; the chronologial detail has been enlargèd, and continued to the present time.

It is the Editor's candid and sincere wish, that this work may be read in a spirit of deep and serious attention, and that the present fatal malady may be of temporary visitation, and not become endemic amongst us; that it may lead to a thankful recognition of the divine hand, and that, nationally, it may be overruled for our general good, so that our great, elevating, and distinguishing privileges, whether social, civil, or religious, may not, by their abuse, rise up in judgment against us, to condemn us.

R. B.

York, July, 1832.

AN

HISTORICAL ACCOUNT

OF THE MOST REMARKABLE

PESTILENTIAL DISTEMPERS,

&c.

Plague, or Pestilential Fever, is a very acute, malignant, and contagious disease; being a putrid fever of the worst kind, and seldom failing to prove fatal; though it is generally defined a malignant fever.

That the plague is a poison, or rather carries a poison along with it, is acknowledged by all physicians; but of what kind and nature it is, and whence it proceeds, is left in obscurity.

The plague, it is generally believed, seldom or ever originates in Britain, but is imported from abroad, especially from the Levant, Lesser Asia, Egypt, &c., where it is very common. Dr. Sydenham, in his works, has remarked that it rarely infects this country oftener than once in forty years, and happily we have been free from it for a much longer period.

Authors are not yet agreed concerning the nature of this dreadful distemper. Some think that insects are the cause of it, in the same way that they are the cause of blights, being brought in swarms from other climates by the wind, when they are taken into the lungs in respiration; the consequence of which is, that they mix with the blood and juices, and attack and corrode the viscera. Mr. Boyle, on the other hand, thinks it originates from the effluvia or exhalations breathed into the atmosphere from noxious minerals, to which may be added stagnant waters and putrid bodies of every kind.

Gibbon, the historian, thought the plague originated from damp, hot, and stagnating air, and the putrefaction of animal substances, especially locusts.

The Mahometans believe that the plague proceeds from certain spirits, or goblins, armed with bows and arrows, sent by God to punish men for their sins; and that when the wounds are given by spectres of a black colour, they certainly prove fatal, but not so when the arrows are shot by those that appear white. They therefore take no precaution to guard themselves against it. The wiser professors of this religion, however, at present act otherwise.

An article in the Encyclopædia Brittannica, states it as a remarkable fact, that plagues are some

times partial, and that they only attack particular animals, or a particular description of persons, avoiding others altogether, or attacking them but slightly. Thus Fernelius informs us of a plague, or murrain, in 1514, which affected only cats. Dionysius Halicarnasseus mentions a plague which attacked none but maids; and that which raged in the time of Gentilis, killed scarcely any women, and very few but lusty men. Boterus mentions another plague, which assaulted none but the younger sort. Cardan speaks of a plague at Basle with which the Switzers were infected, and the Italians, Germans, or French, exempted: and John Utenhovius takes notice of a dreadful one at Copenhagen, which, though it raged among the Danes, spared the Germans, Dutch, and English, who went with all freedom and without the least danger, to the houses of the infected. During the plague which ravaged Syria, in 1760, it was observed that people of the soundest constitutions were the most liable to it, and that the weak and delicate were either spared or easily cured. It was most fatal to the Moors; and when it attacked them it was generally incurable.

The historical details connected with this very singular disease are highly interesting. The ancients do not appear to have been acquainted with it; but it must be confessed that its origin and early history are involved in much obscurity. For

many centuries past it has been endemic on the shores of the Mediterranean; although it has occasionally shown itself in other latitudes.

A modern writer describes this family of diseases commonly called plagues or pestilences, as a variety of fevers, with or without eruptions on the skin, which have from time to time, by spreading epidemically,* thinned the ranks of mankind. These fevers appear under different *types*, or degrees of immediate severity. The inflammatory type, is indicated by a strong pulse and highly excited system; the typhoid, by a weak pulse and great debility. There is an intermediate type, partaking of both these extremes. They have received different names, often educed from some peculiarity in the symptoms of each particular disease; but occasionally suggested by the caprice or the peculiar views of the author who may have descanted upon them.

Europe, though less favourable than other quarters of the globe to the generating of the elements of contagion in the first instance, or to the induction of an epidemic state of the atmosphere, has been frequently visited by pestilential diseases.

* Any disease affecting numbers of people in or about the same time and place, if not dependent upon local and limited circumstances, is called an *epidemic*, or is said to act epidemically.

With this summary view of these awful and mysterious dispensations of Divine Providence, which, it is hoped, every reader will regard with becoming seriousness, his attention is called to the more detailed particulars, as given in the following historical account.

Thucydides, who was himself infected, gives us an account of a dreadful plague which happened at Athens about the year before Christ 430, while the Peloponnesians under the command of Archidamus wasted all her territory abroad; but of these two enemies the plague was by far the most dreadful and severe.

80 A. D.

At the commencement of the Christian æra, one of the most dreadful plagues that perhaps ever was known visited Rome, it was in the reign of Titus, so early as the year 80. There happened to be a fire in that city, which lasted three days and nights successively, this was followed by an awful plague, in which 10,000 persons were buried in one day.* The emperor did all in his power to repair the damages, and assist the distressed, by declaring he would take the whole loss occasioned by the fire upon himself, and left no remedy unattempted to abate the malignity of the distemper.

* See Goldsmith's Rome.

167.

A similar disease to the former raged in all the provinces of the Roman empire, in the reign of M. Aurelius, and was followed by a dreadful famine, by earthquakes, inundations, and other calamities. The Romans believed that Æsculapius sometimes entered into a serpent, and cured the plague.

430.

The first plague we read of in England, was about this time, just after the Picts and Scots had made a formidable invasion of the southern part of the island. The plague raged with uncommon fury, and swept away most of those whom the sword and famine had spared.

447.

Another plague broke out, which, in a short time destroyed such a multitude of people, that the living were scarcely sufficient to bury the dead.

583.

The next happened in France, but more particularly at Paris, which they called the plague in the groin, because it appeared in that part. It seemed to burn those who were infected with it, and afflicted them with most intolerable pains, making a scar, in a short time, as if it had been done by an actual cautery. It made dreadful havoc among mankind, and the greatest part died in great pain, with dreadful shrieks and cries.

1048.

There was a remarkable earthquake in England on the first of March, which was attended with a destruction of man and beast, and the lightning set several towns and fields of corn on fire, which occasioned such a famine, that one horse-load of wheat was sold for five shillings, a considerable sum in those days.

1086.

The unseasonable weather and heavy rains, which occured at this period, caused a famine; the consequence of which was a dreadful mortality of men and cattle.

1093.

A famine raged this year, which produced so great a loss of life, that it was with difficulty the living were able to bury the dead.

1247.

On Valentine's day, there was a violent earthquake in several parts of England, especially in London, and on the Banks of the Thames, which was followed by a plague, insomuch that in September following, there were nine or ten buried every day in the churchyard of St. Peter at St. Alban's.

1259.

A great pestilence broke out in England, whereof many thousands died, which it was thought was occasioned by the famine of the preceeding year,

which was so destructive, that many were forced to feed upon horse-flesh, bark of trees, &c., and provision were so scarce that 20,000 people were said to be starved to death for want, in London.

1315.

England was again visited with a great famine, so that horses and dogs were eaten as common food, and in the prisons the distress was so particularly great, that new offenders as soon as they entered were devoured, and in some instances eaten half alive. The famine continued three years, and ended in so terrible a pestilence, that the living were scarcely able to bury the dead. The cattle which fed upon the grass, which was said to be corrupted, died; this made their flesh suspected of being unwholesome, for which reason horse-flesh was accounted a great delicacy.

1348.

There happened the most dreadful pestilence that ever was known; it was so universal, that there was neither city, town, or house, but what was invaded with it. It began in the kingdom of Kathay, in the year 1346, by an intolerable stench, that arose out of the earth, which extended and was felt above 600 miles through the country, and not only the trees were destroyed, but the very stones themselves did not escape: the air was infected to such a degree, that great numbers of small ser-

pents and other insects fell down from it. From Kathay it took its progress through Asia into Greece, and from thence into Africa, and last of all into Europe, where it made terrible devastations, to the utmost extremity of the north. It reached Florence, which was then the most beautiful city in Italy, though all possible care was taken to prevent it, by cleansing it from all filth, forbidding infected persons to enter, and in a solemn manner beseeching the Almighty to avert the impending danger. About the beginning of the said year, it began to discover its dreadful effects; according to Antoninus, bishop of Florence, the distemper carried off 60,000 people in that city; it seized children of both sexes, with swellings in the groin, or under the armpits, which increasing to the size of an apple, some greater, some less, and from thence they appeared indifferently in other parts of the body; afterwards they were affected with black or blue spots, on the arms, thighs, and other parts, of different sizes, and all these were certain signs of approaching death; for the physician's art, and the virtue of medicines availed nothing. They generally died the third day after these signs appeared, and often without any fever or other accident. If the clothes or things belonging to the infected persons, happened to be touched by any animal, it was certain death; and I myself, (says Boccace,) beheld the clothes

of a poor man, who died of this disease, thrown into the street, which two hogs seized with their teeth, and after they had shaken them a little, they wheeled about once or twice and fell down dead, as if they had been poisoned.

Schenckius informs us, that when this disease entered any place, for the first two months it was attended with a fever, difficulty of breathing, and spitting of blood. The difficulty of breathing was so great, that the patient was constantly obliged to keep himself in a sitting posture; and could scarcely swallow any thing either solid or liquid; his cheeks were red and inflamed, and he was troubled with a violent cough, which produced a considerable quantity of blood; in three days time it terminated in death. After the expiration of two months, besides the foregoing symptoms, they began to have spots and abscesses, and some did not die till after the expiration of five days.

In process of time, the fury of the disease began to abate, and the lungs ceased to be affected; but the morbific matter was thrown upon the groin, armpits, and behind the ears, and was not then so mortal.

This plague visited London in the beginning of November, in 1348, and continued till 1357. It made its first appearance in England, in the seaport towns of Dorsetshire, and destroyed almost all the inhabitants; from thence it passed into

Devonshire and Somersetshire, as far as Bristol, and although the inhabitants in Gloucestershire used every precaution, and cut off all communication, particularly with the city, yet it soon entered their capital, and extended the devastation to Oxford, London, &c., spreading itself all over England, and made such a dreadful havoc among the people, that scarcely one in ten of all ranks and degrees was left alive, and when the churchyards were not sufficient to receive the dead, there were certain fields appointed for that purpose. It was at this time, that Walter Mayny, Lord of Mayny, born at Cambray, who served in the wars, with the Duke of Lancaster, bought a piece of ground, called Spittle Croft, without the bars of West-Smithfield, and caused it to be enclosed and consecrated for the burial of the dead; and in the year following, there were no less than 50,000 persons buried therein, as appears from authentic accounts. The same gentleman built a chapel on the said ground, in memory thereof, and afterwards converted it into a monastery, for monks of the Chartreux order, which is now vulgarly called the Charter-House.

1361.

There began another plague, called the second pestilence, in which Henry, Duke of Lancaster, died, as also Reginald Lord Cobham, Walter Fitz-warring, two eminent men, and the bishops of

Worcester, London, Ely, Lincoln, and Chichester. In France it raged seven or eight years at intervals. All sorts of persons, without destinction, were attacked both in town and country. There died of it this year, nine cardinals, and seventy prelates, at the Pope's court, and more than 30,000 people in Paris.

1369.

This disease returned, and was called the third pestilence, of which among others died Blanch, Duchess of Lancaster.

1379.

There happened so great a mortality in the North of England, as never had been known before; which the Scotch taking the advantage of, ravaged those parts, and killed such as were sick of the plague, and not able to defend themselves, and drove most that remained out of the country.

1390.

A contagious distemper began in the northern parts of the kingdom; and, in a short time, 1100 persons died in the city of York.

1391.

In July, this year, the sun appeared red through certain dusky clouds, and gave but little light from noon till sun-set. This continued much

in the same manner for six weeks following, and at the same time there was a great mortality in Norfolk, occasioned by the plague, and in many other parts, insomuch that it resembled the great pestilence; and in the city of York it was very fatal, 11,000 persons died.

1407.

In the summer time, the air was so corrupted, and so great a plague ensued, that the same had not been seen for many years; in London it soon destroyed 30,000 persons, and the mortality was so great in country villages among farmers and husbandmen, that many entire families died of it, and the houses were left desolate.

1427.

Craike, the historian, informs us, there was a great plague at Dantzic.

1478.

Towards the latter end of September, there was a great pestilence, not only in London, but in several parts of the kingdom. It lasted about fourteen months, in which space of time, there died a prodigious number of people in London and other places. Baker says, that a year or two before this, there was so great a pestilence, that it swept away more people in four months than the wars had done in fifteen years.

1485.

In about the beginning of August, the disease called the sweating sickness began, and continued till the end of October. Sennertus says, that this distemper was very common in England for forty years successively; physicians and historians, who lived in or near those times affirm, that it had intervals, for in the space of sixty-six years it made only four returns, viz. in 1506, 1517, 1528, and 1551, seldom raging above six months, and some times terminating in three, and was always preceded by a very wet season. Its malignity was so great, that when it invaded any place it seized upon five or six hundred persons at a time, and of these scarcely one in a hundred escaped.

Sennertus gives us a compendious description of this disease, which is agreeable to what other authors have said about it. Those who were taken ill had neither carbuncles nor spots, but lost their strength all of a sudden, and fainted away; they had great anxiety of mind a pain in the head, a quick, swift, unequal pulse, and a very great palpitation of the heart; they fell into a constant and copious sweat, which did not terminate before the disease, that lasted twenty-four hours; and those who did not encourage the sweating, nor made use of cordials, and who impatient of heat, exposed themselves to the cold air, died suddenly within twenty-four hours. But after the nature of

the disease was known, so that the patients promoted the sweating, and fortified themselves with cordials, the mortality was not so great.

As to the cure, Polydore Virgil, treats of it with great accuracy; for after long observation, and many experiments of what was hurtful or helpful to this distemper, they at length hit upon a remedy, which might be easily made use of by every one, as follows: if any one fell into a sweat, in the day-time, they immediately went to bed with their clothes on; if they were taken in the night, they kept themselves still and quiet, till the expiration of twenty-four hours; means being taken to keep up the regular continuance of the sweat.

There is something very remarkable recorded about this distemper, which is, that it pursued the English into foreign countries, and invaded none but them.

Schenckius relates a very singular story of one that would uot submit to the usual method of cure, and in order to avoid it, ran away and hid himself in an oven, from whence the bread had been lately drawn; the heat of which throwing him into a plentiful sweat, he at length crept out with the usual signs of recovery.

1500.

There was another great pestilence, which carried off abundance of men in many places, especially

in and about London, where it was computed, that there died of this disease about 30,000 people.

1505.

The spotted fever made its first appearance in Italy, as related by Fracastorius, and returned in 1528; but Langius was of a contrary opinion, and not only denies this to be a new distemper, but also affirms, that the rest which are said to be so, are only old ones revived, which have lain sometime dormant. He looked upon this disease to be contagious. It seemed to have so little danger in it, that the patients when they were first seized, were unwilling to take advice, and it often deceived the physicians themselves. But in a short time the malignity of this disease began to appear; the patient lay supine in his bed, his head was heavy, his senses dull, and after the fourth or seventh day he would begin to talk in a wild, random manner, his eyes at the same time being red and fiery. The pulse was slow, the excrements corrupt and fetid, and on the fourth or seventh day, little red spots began to appear on the back, arms, and breast, he had little or no thirst, but his tongue was foul; some were very wakeful, others sleepy, others again both by turns. This state lasted in some to the seventh day, in others to the fourteenth or longer; but few women, died of it, a very few old men, and not so much as one Jew. Young

men and boys had the greatest share of its fatal effects, and of these the wealthiest suffered most.

1510.

An epidemical head-ach prevailed among the Germans, attended with a kind of distraction and giddiness, with swellings behind the ears, which destroyed great numbers.

1510.

There was also an epidemical disease in France, which they called Copueluche, because it affected the head with a very heavy pain: there was likewise a great pain in the stomach, small of the back, and calves of the legs, attended with a burning fever and troublesome delirium; and also with a loathing of all sorts of food. There were few people escaped it, and it was fatal to a great number.

1511.

When Verona was in possession of the Germans, there arose a pestilence, which destroyed 10,000 persons, and no less than twenty-five Germans were successively infected with one leather garment.

1513.

There was a pestilence in England, which raged chiefly about London, insomuch that in one house in the Minories, there died twenty-seven professed nuns, besides the servants and others that lived in the house.

1517.

About Lammas, the sweating sickness returned, and carried off great numbers at the beginning, and continued until Michaelmas following, and the term was adjourned to Oxford upon that account. In the Winter following, a great pestilence began to rage, almost all over England, and King Henry the VIII. was so afraid of it, that he retired with a small company, and did not keep any court for fear of the infection.

1522.

A terrible plague occurred at Rome, in July.

1527.

A plague broke out in Italy, which destroyed two thirds of the army of Latrec, governor of the Milanese, and was as fatal to the officers, as to the private men, carrying off several persons of distinction.

1528.

Towards the end of May, the sweating sickness returned again, and over-ran the whole kingdom, and not only the sittings at Westminster, but the Assizes were adjourned; it destroyed many persons of distinction, insomuch that King Henry the VIII. himself again retired to Tittinhanger, a place then belonging to the abbot of St. Alban's, where, with the Queen, and a very small number

of other persons, he remained until the sickness was abated.

1531.

There was a dreadful plague in France, which was preceeded with another disease, called Troussegaland, occasioned by a universal famine. This it was supposed, was owing to unseasonable weather, for in the space of five years, there had not been two day's frost successively, insomuch that the summer seemed to be continual. The extraordinary heat enervated nature, and rendered it unfruitful, for nothing was brought to maturity. The trees appeared in bloom immediately after the fruit; corn did not multiply as usual, because for want of frost, there was so great a quantity of insects, that they destroyed the blade as soon as it began to sprout, and the crops did not yield seed enough for the following year.

1539.

A plague broke out at Basle, which continued after some remission until the following year, when the summer was excessively hot. There were several eminent persons died of it.

1542.

There occurred at Breslaw, a plague, of which 5,900 died in the space of twenty-two weeks. The infection from whence it was derived, had been

concealed in linen fourteen years, which being opened, revived afresh this fatal disease.

1543.

This following year a plague broke out in London, that they thought it necessary to adjourn Michaelmas term to St. Alban's.

1548.

There was again a great pestilence in London, whereupon an order was made, that no clergyman should bury any corpse before six in the morning, or after six at night, and that the bells should toll for three quarters of an hour at every funeral.

1550.

Another plague arose at Basle, which infected the neighbouring places, and carried off a great many persons, towards the end of August, and then it began to cease; but in the autumn of the following year it began to rage again, making with intervals a great havoc. This plague continued until the beginning of 1553.

1551.

On the 15th of April, the sweating sickness again appeared, first at Shrewsbury, and was not extinguished in the north part of England, until the end of September. It was difficult to ascertain the number that died of this disease; however it is certain that it was fatal to 960 persons, in a few days. It began in London, the 9th of July, and

on the 12th of the said month it raged exceedingly, insomuch that people in the best health were taken suddenly, and died in twenty-four hours, and sometimes in twelve or less, for want of skill in promoting the sweating. It is remarkable, that it chiefly affected men between thirty and forty, and that it pursued the English into foreign countries. Eight hundred persons died in London the first week.

1557.

An epidemical disease appeared in Germany, which was preceeded by a dry autumn, and cold northern winds. The symptoms were first pains in the head, difficulty of breathing, and hoarseness, then shivering, a fever, and a violent cough, attended with danger of suffocation. In the beginning of the disease, the cough was dry, but after the seventh or fourteenth day, the patient parted with much viscid matter. As the spitting encreased, the cough, and difficulty of breathing lessened. Dodonæus observed, that besides the foregoing symptoms, there were obtuse pains in the side, that on the third day, or the fourth, the spitting began to be bloody, and that they died at the eighth day at the farthest. Through every stage of the disease, there was great weakness, weariness, and want of appetite, and a violent cough would not let the patient rest; some towards the end were

troubled with purging, and others with sweating. It raged only at one time of the year, and seized on all alike, without distinction.

1563.

About the beginning of the summer, a plague appeared at Havre de Grace, in Normandy, which was then besieged: it increased so prodigiously, that the streets were nearly filled with dead bodies. From hence it was brought into England by the soldiers, and the infection spread into several parts of the kingdom. In London it raged more particularly, from the first of January, 1563, till the last of December, there died in the city, and out parishes, of this dreadful plague, 20,136. A witty historian observed, that London was afflicted with three plagues at the same time, the pestilence, scarcity of money, and the famine. In 1564, the pestilence was not quite extinguished, for Hilary-Term was kept at Hartford-Castle, near Ware; but Easter-Term, the disease ceasing, was kept at Westminster as usual.

1564.

Wierus relates that an epidemical disease afflicted mankind, which was ushered in by the small pox and measles. It proved very fatal in many places, depolulating towns and cities, visiting Constantinople, Alexandria, Leyden, London, Dantzic, Vienna, Cologne, and the whole district of the

Upper Rhine, as far as Basle. In the lower circle of the Rhine it appeared externally with glandulous swellings in the neck; this was in the winter: but in the summer following, they turned to quinseys, of a dangerous nature and short duration. It destroyed some in one day, others in two, three, four, some few in seven; those that survived the eighth day escaped.

The symptoms were first vomiting, then a swelling of the tongue, afterwards loss of speech, and and great difficulty of swallowing any thing, even in a liquid form, then suffocation ensued. Sometimes this disease was attended with a frenzy, at others the pleura and lungs were affected, whence proceeded pleurisies and peripneumonias of a fatal sort.

This disease, at Basle, was called the great plague. It began in the lower part of Germany, and broke out in the winter of 1563, which continued till 1564, and raged chiefly in the summer and autumn of that year. It destroyed a great many children, as well as citizens of all sorts, but was particularly fatal to women with child; even the old and decrepid did not escape: they sometimes buried upwards of twenty in one grave. Churches and streets looked like a desert, nothing but mourning appeared in every corner, however many escaped with suitable assistance; and Platerus him-

self practised there all that time; he supposes the number of the dead not to have exceeded 4,000.

1565.

Ambrose Parrey informs us, there was a plague which raged throughout all France, in which bleeding was found prejudical, and those who made use of anodynes generally escaped.

1566.

A disease called Morbus Hungaricus, and Lues Pannonica; it appeared at Komorno, and encreased at Tawarzin, where the Christian powers were assembled, under Maximilian II. against the Turks. When the soldiers were disbanded, they distributed the contagion over almost all Europe, but chiefly at Vienna, through which most of the army passed. They generally infected the families where they lodged, and died rapidly themselves, that the streets and highways were either filled with dead bodies, or with such as were not likely to recover.

The symptoms of this disease were as follow. It generally began about three or four in the afternoon, with cold and shivering, succeeded by heat, in a quarter of an hour, which greatly incommoded the patient day and night afterwards. Their chief complaint was a pain in the head, they would likewise point to the pit of the stomach, where an unusual hardness and resistance might be felt.

At the beginning they were tormented by an unquenchable thirst; the next day, or at farthest on the third, they grew delirious. Towards the evening the disease gathered new strength, and continued worse most part of the night. The tongue was parched, the lips chopped, and some spit blood, others had a voilent purging. Deafness was a sign of recovery; swelling behind the ears were frequent. The worst crisis was a tubercle on the top of the foot, which generally ended in a mortification. Some recovered on the fourteenth day, others, though but few, on the twentieth: wine was fatal to all that drank it, all that had this disease had small red spots on the breast, and on their chins; some had them on their shoulders, and others all over their bodies.

1570.

Kircher informs us, that a dreadful plague invaded the whole of Italy, This year there was rainy, cloudy weather, and the air was hot and moist.

1576.

In August, this year, the pestilence was brought to Basle again, by a letter-carrier; he first infected his wife, and then the rest of his family; from whence it spread itself by degrees over the city, and continued more or less till 1578. The plague was the same years at Venice and Padua, from May till January.

1580.

There was an epidemical distemper, mentioned by Forestus, which spread over the whole of Europe in six weeks time; it was attended with a cough and catarrh and yet scarcely one in a thousand died.

1580.

A new disease appeared in France and Italy, which was called Morbus Vervecinus. Thuanus observes, that it first began in the east, then took its progress into Italy and Spain, and at length reached the north. The French called it Coqueluche. It was not so much to be feared, for its fatal effects, though many died of it, as for the swift progress it made from one place to another. It first began with a shivering in the lower part of the back, which was succeeded with a heavy pain in the head, and loss of strength throughout the whole body, and it greatly affected the breast. If the disease did not leave the patient in four or five days, it degenerated into a fever, which carried him off. It was generally fatal to those who took purging medicines, or let blood, because the difficulty of breathing was increased thereby.

1583.

The summer of that year being hot and dry, it was succeeded with a dysentery or bloody flux, of a malignant nature, which extended itself all over Germany, and continued till the end of the autumn.

It chiefly infected boys, of whom many died; for though it had invaded a great many advanced in years, yet they generally recovered with the use of proper remedies.

1588.

There was a maligant epidemical continual fever, at Basle which chiefly invaded strong, robust persons, seldom affecting women, or infants. Its symptoms were shiverings and sudden loss of strength. It was contagious, and when the patient was near death, the disease discovered its malignity, by the spots then breaking out. Those to whom this disease was fatal generally died on the 10th, 11th, or 12th day, seldom reaching the 14th. Those who escaped, did not recover their strength entirely in less than six weeks, and the fever continued about half that time.

1594.

The plague broke out again in London, and destroyed in the city and suburbs 17,890 people, besides the Lord Mayor and three Aldermen; and Michaelmas term was adjourned to St. Alban's. It was the same year at Basle, but began at the end of 1593, and carried off 900 persons.

1596—1597.

A disease was very prevalent in Westphalia, Cologne, Waldeck, Wittenstein, and Hesse, which Sennertus calls a malignant fever with convulsions; though he owns the fever was not always very ap-

parent; it began with twitching, and numbness in the hands and feet: sometimes affecting one side only, sometimes both. First it convulsed the fingers and toes, and affected gradually the arms and legs, till at length it seized the whole body: the patient was either rolled up like a hedge-hog, or lay motionless stretched out at full length, the convulsions were attended with violent pains, which forced cries and shrieks from the sick: it invaded some suddenly while they were at dinner, and seemed to strike the knives and spoons out of their hands. It attacked others while in the fields at plough, or about their employment, without any previous notice; but some were first taken with a vomiting. The patients remained several days in the above condition, nay sometimes whole weeks. If proper remedies were given in time, it did not affect the head, but otherwise the falling sickness succeeded, and the patient often lay six or eight hours as if he was dead. It rendered some stupid or foolish, some lethargic, others delirious, in which state they continued four days or longer: even their recovery, was attended with deafness, weak eyes, or the palsy. When the fit was over, they were insatiably hungry, and yet feeding was followed by a purging, which was the greater if they happened to eat sparingly. The feet and hands of some would swell; others were affected with tubercles, full of a watery humour: they never sweated. The disease was

contagious, though the effects of the contagion did not always appear till some time after.

The cure of this disease was difficult; for those that happened to be epileptic, had now and then a touch of it ever after, those that were stupid never recovered their former vigour of mind: and though some lived fifteen years after, yet they had annually a slight return of the disease in December aad January. Tne cause of this disease was supposed to be unwholesome food.

1603.

A plague visited England; and from the 23d of December 1602, to the 22d of December 1603, there died in the city and suburbs of London, of this fatal disease, 30,578.

1604.

This plague, which, the preceding year, had carried off 30,578 persons in London, raged to such an alarming extent in the city of York, that the markets within the city were prohibited, to prevent the contagion from spreading into the country; and stone crosses were erected in various parts of the vicinity of York, where the country people met the citizens, and sold them their commodities. Several of these crosses are yet remaining. The lord president's courts were adjourned to Ripon and Durham; many of the inhabitants left the city—the minster, and even the

minster-yard, were both shut up, and the unfortunate subjects of infection were sent to Hob-Moor and Horse-Fair, where booths of boards were erected to receive them. No fewer than 3512 inhabitants of York fell victims to this pestilential disease; though by means of these precautions, it was not of long contiuuance.

1607

A pestilential distemper broke out in London, and the season was so sickly and prevailed so generally that the sailors did not escape, who were at a great distance from land.

1609.

There was another plague at Basle, which was called the great pestilence. It began in that city about the end of October, having before made its progress along the Rhine, and had been in the neighbouring marquisate all the summer. It was brought in by a baker's servant, who infected his master's family; from thence it spread to his relations and neighbours. In the beginning of 1610, it began to appear more sensibly, but as carbuncles were not observed, it was doubted whether it was a real plague or not, till July following, when the tokens were plain, and great numbers were carried off. The short time that it raged there, 6408 persons were infected, of which there died 3963, and 2250 recovered.

1625.

A plague broke out in London, which began in Whitechapel, and it is said, in the same house, and on the same day of the month, as in 1603; and it is likewise added, that the same number died thereof; but this will admit of a doubt, for the number of those that died of the plague, was 41,313, and of other diseases 8,848.

1628—1629.

There was a plague which over-run all France, and some who were affected with it, were seized with such a frenzy, that they ran naked into the fields, and if any one offered them clothes, they would immediately throw them away; some threw themselves into rivers, others were subject to hypocondriac melancholy, and imagined they had enemies always at their heels.

1630.

There was a great plague at Montpelier, as recorded by Riverius.

1636—1637.

Deimerbroeck describes a plague, which took place at Nimeguen, the symptoms of which were a fever, carbuncles, spots, head-ache, phrenzy, sleepiness, watchings, anxiety, great weakness, palpitation of the heart, dryness of the tongue, worms, purging, bleeding at the nose, &c.

1640.

There was a plague in London, at which time Dr. Sayer was a practitioner, and the only preservative he made use of before he visited his patients, was a glass of wine, which he repeated at his return home.

1643.

A malignant fever began in the army, at the siege of Reading, which made great devastation in the Earl of Essex's army, nor did it spare the King's troops, in and about Oxford, and it extended to the citizens themselves, and the villages ten miles round. It raged most after the summer, and those that were well, were scarcely sufficient to attend on the sick. It was most fatal to the old and unhealthy, though it destroyed persons of all ages.

First it appeared like a putrid synochus, and when it seemed to be gone off by a perspiration or purging, it soon gathered strength again, and sometimes affected the patient with madness, but often with stupidity, great weakness, and convulsive motions, insomuch that at last they with difficulty escaped. About the middle of summer, the signs of a pestilential distemper began to appear plainly; for though it was contagious and mortal before, yet now spots and pustules began to be observed. Some had a weak, unequal, irregular pulse, with

sudden loss of strength, but without any great fever. Others had spots appeared upon their bodies, which in some were small and red, in others broad and livid; some died suddenly, and others again seemed to be under frightful agonies. Those that escaped, (what are called) dog-days, were effected with dulness of the senses, tremblings, weakness of the limbs, and convulsive motions for a long time afterwards. While the dog-days lasted, this disease was treated as a milder plague.

1646.

There was a pestilential distemper in London, as recorded by Dr. Goad.

1656.

The plague was brought from Sardinia to Naples, being introduced into the city by a transport with soldiers on board. It raged with excessive violence, carrying off in less than six months 400,000 of the inhabitants. The distemper was at first called by the physicians a malignant fever; but one of them affirming it to be pestilential, the viceroy, who was apprehensive lest such a report would occasion all communication with Naples to be broke off, was offended with this declaration, and ordered him to be imprisoned. As a favour, however, he allowed him to return and die in his own house. By this proceeding of the viceroy, the distemper being neg-

lected, made a most rapid and furious progress, and filled the whole city with consternation. The streets were crowded with confused processions, which served to spread the infection through all the quarters. The terror of the people increased their superstition; and it being reported that a certain nun had prophesied that the pestilence would cease upon building a hermitage for her sister nuns, upon the hill of St. Martin's, the edifice was immediately begun with the most ardent zeal. Persons of the highest quality strove who should perform the meanest offices; some loading themselves with beams, and others carried baskets full of lime and nails, while persons of all ranks stripped themselves of their most valuable effects, which they threw into empty hogsheads placed in the streets to receive the charitable contributions. Their violent agitation, however, and the increasing heats, diffused the malady through the whole city, and the streets and the stairs of the churches were filled with the dead; the number of whom, for some time of the month of July, amounted daily to 15,000.

1665.

The Great Plague in London.—This year London was ravaged by the most violent plague ever known in Britain. The whole summer had been remarkably still and warm, so that the wea-

ther was sometimes sufficating, even to people in perfect health; and by this unusual heat, and sultry atmosphere, people were undoubtedly prepared for receiving the infection, which appeared with violence in the months of July, August, and September. A violent plague had raged in Holland, in the year 1663; on which account the importation of merchandise from that country was prohibited by the British legislature in 1664. Notwithstanding this prohibition, however, it seems the plague had actually been imported; for in the close of the year 1664, two or three persons died suddenly in Westminster, with marks of the plague on their bodies. Some of their neighbours, terrified at the thoughts of their danger, removed into the city; but their removal proved too late for themselves, and fatal to those among whom they came to reside. They soon died of the plague; and communicated the infection to so many others, that it became impossible to extinguish the seeds of it, by separating those that were infected from such as were not. It was confined, however, through a hard frosty winter, till the middle of February, when it appeared again in the parish of St. Giles's, to which it had been originally brought; and after another long rest till April, showed its malignant force afresh, as soon as the warmth of the spring gave it opportunity. At first, it took off one here and there, without any certain proof of

their having infected each other, and houses began to be shut up, with a design to prevent its spreading. But it was now too late; the infection gained ground every day, and the shutting up of houses only made the disease spread wider. People, afraid of being shut up, and sequestered from all communications with society, concealed their illness, or found means to escape from their places of confinement; while numbers expired in the greatest torments, destitute of every assistance; and many died both of the plague and other diseases, who would in all probability have recovered, had they been allowed their liberty, with proper excercise and air.

All means of putting a stop to the infection, were evidently ineffectual. Multitudes fled into the country; many merchants, owners of ships, &c., shut themselves up, on board their vessels, being supplied with provisions from Greenwich, Woolwich, and single farm-houses on the Kentish side. Here, however, they were safe; for the infection never reached below Deptford, though the people went frequently on shore to the country-towns, villages, and farm-houses, to buy fresh provisions. As the violence of the plague increased, the ships which had families on board removed further off; some went quite out to sea, and then put into such harbours, and roads as they could best get at.

In the mean time, the distemper made the most rapid advances within the city, as will be seen by the following statement.

From December 20, 1664, to December 27,	1
February 7, to February 14	1
April 18, to April 25	2
May 2, to May 9	9
May 9, to May 16.....	3
May 16, to May 23	14
May 23, to May 30	17
May 30, to June 6	43
June 6, to June 13	112
June 13, to June 20.....	164
June 20, to June 27.....	267
June 27, to July 4	470
July 4, to July 11.....	725
July 11, to July 18	1089
July 18, to July 25	1843
July 25, to August 1.....	2010
August 1, to August 8	2817
August 8, to August 15	3880
August 15, to August 22	4237
August 22, to August 29.....	6102
August 29, to September 5.....	6988
September 5, to September 12	6544
September 12, to September 19	7165
September 19, to September 26	5533
September 26, to October 3	4929
October 3, to October 10	4327
October 10, to October 17	2665

October 17, to October 24	1421
October 24, to October 31	1031
October 31, to November 7.....	1414
November 7, to November 14	1050
November 14, to November 21	655
November 21, to November 28	333
November 28, to December 5.....	210
December 5, to December 12.....	243
December 12, to December 19	281

All this while, the poor people had been reduced to the greatest distresses, by reason of the stagnation of trade, and the sicknesses to which they were peculiarly liable on account of their manner of living. The rich, however, contributed to their subsistence in a most liberal manner. The sums collected on this occasion are indeed almost incredible; being said to amount to £100,000 per week. The King is reported to have contributed £1000 weekly; and in the parish of Cripplegate alone £17,000 was distributed weekly among the poor inhabitants. By the vigilance also of the magistrates, provisions continued remarkably cheap, throughout the whole time of this dreadful calamity, so that all riots and tumults on that account were prevented; and at last, on the cessation of the disease in the winter of 1665, the inhabitants who had fled returned to their habitations, and London to appearance became as populous as ever, though it was computed that 100,000 persons had been carried off by the plague.

1673.

There was an epidemical spotted fever, in and about Cologne: some were taken of a sudden with anxiety of præcordia, a sense of weight about the region of the stomach, loss of appetite, a spontaneous weariness, and vertiginous pain of the head, especially about the origin of the optic nerves: to all which a fever supervened with a sudden loss of strength; after a short shivering an intense heat succeded, all over the body, attended with the following symptoms: the pulse was quick, and generally small and weak, the thirst was unquenchable, and as the disease increased it was attended with dryness of the tongue; there was generally an acute pain in the hypochondria, especially the left, which ascended up the loins, along the spine of the back, as far as the shoulders, which, at times, was accompanied with a pleurisy, or quinsey: in the augmentation, many were afflicted with purging, and a noise in the ears, hardness of hearing, and some times suffusion of the eyes, and even some lost their senses; at the last they were tormented with perpetual watchings, and became delirious, and then appeared red, livid, or blackish spots. On the seventh day there was a change, either evident or obscure, unless hindered by an extra supply of medicines. At first this disease invaded only a few, but its malignity was soon discovered by

the frequency of the funerals, and continued raging until the third year, and in some places carried off one-third of the inhabitants.

If the patient was delirious about the seventh day, and it increased, attended with purging, low voice, and difficulty of swallowing, as also with convulsive tremblings of the lips and fingers, they were certain signs of approaching death. If the patient had any other disease his case was the more dangerous; it was fatal to plethoric persons; a small quick pulse in the beginning of the disease was a bad omen; small spots, either black or livid, were a bad sign; if they were florid and appeared on the fourth day, it was a sign that the patient might escape with proper care; but if they came out later, or near the critical day, creeping obscurely under the cuticle, it was a sure sign and a fatal prognostic; if the sick person supposed himself to be well, and seemed to be hungry; if the tongue and fauces were very dry, and yet he drank little; if tears seemed constantly to fall from the eyes; these and such like symptoms portended, if not certain death, at least extreme danger: but there was no hope of recovery if the delirium increased about the seventh day. If the thirst was vehement, with so great a dryness of the tongue and fauces, that the patient could not speak articulately, nor swallow with difficulty, if convulsions supervened, if small duskish spots

appeared under the cuticle, attended with purging, it was a sign of approaching death.

On the contrary, if the pulse was not very weak, nor swift, but moderately full; if the raving seemed rather the effect of a dream than a delirium; if the tongue was not very dry, and the thirst tolerable; if the spots were red, of the larger sort, round, clear, and distinct; if they broke out on the third day, and a certain recovery might be predicted to follow on the seventh day; when by the breaking out of a sweat, the most grievous symptoms were mitigated, and the patient able to take rest.

1679.

This year a plague appeared at Vienna, which destroyed a great number of people, and there were many persons, who felt violent pains in the groin, and under the armpits, but without any tumour, and these intermixed with palpitations of the heart; all which went off in time without any farther consequence.

1702.

A plague made its appearance near Pinezow or Pickzow, in Poland, soon after the unfortunate battle between the Saxons and Swedes. The next year it appeared in some places near Cracow and Russia, having already caused a great mortality near the Hungarian Mountains, called Crapach;

from thence it took its progress eastward, towards the upper Volhynia, and westward to Lemburgh; in 1704, it raged very violently in these two Palatinates; at Lemburgh, a vast number of its inhabitants died, and many fled to save their lives. In autumn, it spread in those places lying to the west and south of it, beginning at a village called Radymno, on this side Jariflow and afterwards invading other places seated between the rivers San and Volodarora, it spread till it came towards the Samber. In 1705 it left Lemburgh, and went north and west of Great Poland, though Jariflow, Sieniawe, Zamose, and other adjacent places, and continued in that part of the country, as far as Posen, all that year. In 1707, it entered the city of Warsaw, where, in that summer, it destroyed a great number of people. In 1708, it approached Polish Prussia, and the latter end of August it broke out in Thorn, where it continued till the beginning of next year, and swept away a considerable number of people; this progress made the inhabitants of Dantzic very apprehensive of danger: public prayers were ordered in the churches, and the magistrates left nothing undone that tended to the common safety; commerce and communication with the infected, and even suspected places were forbid; no sort of merchandise or goods were allowed to be brought from such places, especially wool, raw leather,

furs, beds, &c.; all strangers and travellers were strictly examined, and none permitted to enter without sufficient proofs that they came from healthy and unsuspected places; all the inhabitants were cautioned not to correspond with, or harbour persons from infected places: these and other necessary precautions were taken, and by public act enjoined, from July 11, 1708, to February, 1709, notwithstanding, the distemper gradually proceeded into the city.

1709.

In March there died in one district of the old town of Raumbaum, seven persons; another case was that of a young girl, who by order of the magistrates was sent to the hospital, having some symptoms of a pestilential nature about her, which soon shewed itself by seizing other children in the same room. When Dr. Gottwald went to the hospital as physician in ordinary, to view the patients, he found ten in the same room of different ages, with gangrenous ulcers; in another room there were above twenty children, from six to thirteen years of age all which, except four or five, had pestilential eruptions in the groin, armpits, and neck, or carbuncles on the arms, thighs, legs, and other parts: these he either took to be the plague, or certain forerunners of that destructive distemper.

The surgeon did not think it of so dangerous a nature, yet himself and family soon after died of it. From this time the disease and the number of patients daily encreased, but mostly in the town.

In August and September the plague raged with the greatest violence, and several eminent men lost their lives: two of the chief magistrates and two of the judges died, and about one half of the clergy; but of the physicians, apothecaries, and the surgeons in ordinary, with two exceptions, escaped; the principal citizens suffered very little, there died 24,533.

It was observed by Dr. Shelwig, that the plague disappeared in the same proportion as it had increased, for in June there died 319, in July 1313, in August 6139, in September 8303, in October 4932, in November 1961, in December 584.

1710.

This year it continued raging in Europe, and particularly at Olsnizt.

1711

It reached Denmark and Holsatia, destroying great numbers at Copenhagen, This distemper began to shew itself about the beginning of July 1711, and spread till the beginning of September, after which it decreased by little and little to the end of the year: it appears that before this disease

there were about 60,000 inhabitants at Copenhagen, whence it is inferred that there are about 2000 born every year, and that there die nearly the same number. In the six months that this distemper continued, they stated that it carried off about 25,000 people; but the public accounts mention no more than 22,535: it is believed that the last week of August, and the two first weeks of September, each carried off 2300, besides a great many that died, of which no notice was taken. Almost the same thing happened two years before at Dantzic, where before the plague broke out, there died weekly from forty-five to fifty; but the number of the dead increased by degrees, to the beginning of September; so that in the first week of that month there died 2205, in a second 2070, and in the third 2075, after which the mortality decreased to the end of the year.

It was observed that very few houses escaped the infection, and in others it did not leave one person alive: that it was generally most fatal to the lower order, which might be owing to their scanty manner of living.

1712.

There was an epidemical fever, attended with a catarrh, which visited most parts of Europe. In England it was called the Dunkirk fever by some, and by others, the new delight.

1713.

There was a pestilential distemper in Austria, Bohemia, and Germany, and more particularly in Vienna, Ratisbon, and Hamburgh.

1720.

The city of Marseilles was visited with this destructive disease, brought in a ship from the Levant, and in seven months, during which it continued, it carried off not fewer than 60,000 people. The ravages of this disease have been dreadful whereever it has made its appearance. On the first arrival of Europeans at the island of Grand Canary, it contained 14,000 fighting men, soon after which two-thirds of these inhabitants fell a sacrifice to the plague. The destruction it has made in Turkey in Europe, and particularly in Constantinople, must be generally known, and its fatal effects have been particularly heightened there by that firm belief which prevails among the people of predestination, &c. It is generally brought into European Turkey, from Egypt; where it is very frequent, especially at Grand Cairo.

1743.

A plague broke out at Messina.

1759.

A similar disease prevailed at Grand Cairo, when it was suffered to advance without any controul,

and the ravages which it committed were of considerable magnitude.

1760.

A plague occurred in Syria, which was one of the most malignant and fatal that was ever experienced there; for it scarcely made its appearance in any part of the body, but it carried off the patient.

1771.

At Moscow, the plague appeared in this year, which had evidently been conveyed from Hindoostan, and was particularly fatal.

1773.

The plague carried off, in this year 80,000 persons, both at Bassora and Bagdad.

1782.

A dreadful fire broke out at Constantinople, wherein 40,000 houses were burned; and the plague raged both in the capital and provinces. In the same year an epidemical disease prevailed at Brest, by which nearly half of the persons in the King's employ, were for some time in their beds sick.

1784.

A plague occurred at Smyrna, which carried off 20,000 inhabitants, and in the same year at Tunis, 32,000.

1786.

By an awful visitation of the plague, in the Levant, nearly 800,000 persons perished.

1788.

The plague raged again this year in the Levant.

1791.

This year a plague raged fatally at Smyrna.

1792.

Egypt was visited by a plague, which extended its ravages so that 800,000 persons died.

1799.

On the 9th of August, the plague visited Barbary, by which Fez and its vicinity, lost 274,000 persons.

1804.

There was a plague accompanied with great mortality at Gibraltar.

1805.

The plague made its appearance again in Gibraltar, and also in Spain.

1813.

A fatal plague made its appearance in Malta.

1814.

A plague in Smyrna carried off 35,000 persons.

1816.

A plague similar to that which visited Malta, in 1813, caused great devastation in the Ionian Islands in this year.

1819.

This summer, the yellow fever caused dreadful ravages among the British troops in Jamaica, particularly among regiments recently arrived. The contagion, like that at Malta, was so virulent, that all who attended the sick, with few exceptions, fell victims to their self-devotion. The soldiers who would have mounted a breach "to the cannon's mouth," were appalled by the terrific strides of disease, and in a body refused to wait upon the sick. The officers represented to them the cruelty of abandoning their brother-soldiers in the last extremity of nature. After a short pause, four privates of the grenadiers stepped forward and offered their services for a duty more perilous than the forlorn hope in storming a fortified town. Two of these brave men in a short time fell under the pestilence, and the two others withdrew their assistance. Every heart was dismayed, when Colonel Hill of the 50th Regiment heroically addressed the men: "Then my men, we must change coats. Since I cannot find a soldier who will risk his own person to save the lives of his brothers in arms, I must take the duty upon myself." In ten days this true hero, this benevolent son of war, added another to the multitude that perished by the yellow fever. He was the oldest officer in the corps, and had served forty-seven years.

THE INDIAN OR SPASMODIC CHOLERA.

Although the plague has appeared in several districts, particularly on the eastern shores of the Mediterranean, on various occasions, yet it will be needless to enter into minute detail of them, as it will be found more important to state some particulars respecting the history and progress of the *Indian or Spasmodic Cholera*, which about this time excited general attention on account of its unprecedented malignity. So early as the year 1781, a division of the Bengal troops was attacked by this disease, with such fury that the men fell immediate victims to its violence; and it is related that in 1783, above 20,000 persons died of the same distemper, whilst assembled at an Indian festival. In the following years the Spasmodic Cholera, was regarded as a comparatively mild disease, affecting, at certain seasons of the year, persons in various parts of the country. But in August, 1817, it broke out with such desolating violence, that it may be classed with pestilential scourges of the worst description: commencing at Jessore, a town 100 miles N. E. of Calcutta, which is crowded, dirty, and unwholesome, in the midst of marsh and jungle;

proceeding, it depopulated the whole intervening country, until it reached Calcutta where it indiscriminately attacked Indians and Europeans of every rank and constitution.

In the district of Jessore alone, it carried off 10,000 persons in a few weeks. In the dirty and miserable quarters of Calcutta, among a poor and half-starved population, its ravages were most severe. In the narrow, dirty, unpaved lanes inhabited by the natives of this wealthy city, the people were attacked by hundreds, and many died in the course of very few hours.

In 1818, the pestilence raged with extreme violence, extending its destructive influence across Bengal, from Silhet to Cuttack; and towards the interior, from the mouth of the Ganges, to its confluence with the Jumna, a space of 450 square miles. So malignant was its operation, that in Benares, no less than 15,000 persons died in two months. At Allahabad, forty or fifty died daily. To other localities situated on either bank of the Ganges the disease soon spread, and the mortality was equally great. In the district of Gorrakpore 30,000 were carried of in a month, and other neighbouring places suffered in succession.

Its most melancholy operations, this year, were witnessed in the army, commanded by the Marquis of Hastings, consisting of 10,000 troops, and 80,000 followers, which lost in twelve days

no less than 9,000 men. The space occupied by the camp, as well as the fields and highways, were covered with the bodies of the dying and the dead; the old and the young, the European and the native, fighting men and camp followers were alike selected, and all equally sank within its death-grasp. The removal of the army, to a more elevated position, at the distance of fifty miles, caused a cessation of the malady.

Advancing at an average rate of sixteen miles a day in its career of destruction, it arrived at Madras about the 8th of October, of this year, spreading along the coast of Coromandel, having previously crossed the Deccan, and taking the direction of the coast, arrived at Bombay. Not confining itself to the continent, the Cholera made its appearance in Ceylon, and in Candy, the capital of that island, it assumed even a more malignant form than in Hindoostan.

In 1819, we find this direful malady raging in the Mauritius, and the island of Bourbon, whither it had been conveyed by trading vessels, and it carried off fifty persons daily in Port Louis, the chief town of the former island. In this year, we also trace its progress in a south-easterly direction, visiting the Burmese Empire and Siam, destroying in Bankok, a city of the latter kingdom, no less than 40,000 persons. It rushed along the peninsula of Malacca, and penetrated the coast of Java.

In 1820, continuing its easterly course, it was seen in Cockin, China, and Tonquin, and exhibited its ravages in Canton. In Pekin, as well as in other densely populated districts of the Chinese empire, the fatality was astounding, and unnumbered thousands fell victims to this pestilential scourge. Pekin admitted the enemy in 1821, and during that and the following year the mortality was so enormous, that coffins and other funeral requisites were necessarily furnished at the expense of the public treasury, for the interment of the poorer classes. Numbers of people engaged in the pursuits of business or pleasure, riding or walking, were seen to fall in the streets, exhausted by the sudden impression of the disease, which carried them in a few hours afterwards to eternity.

Although the disease had spread from Bengal, yet it did not entirely disappear in that presidency; but in 1821, pursuing a north-westerly direction, it appeared, with augmented virulence in Arabia, and in the countries adjacent to the Persian Gulf. In the town of Muscat, 60,000 persons died, many literally falling down dead, a few minutes after the attack; whilst in Bassora, 14,000 individuals were destroyed in one fortnight. Among the victims was the East India Company's Resident, Claudius James Rich, Esq. He had retired to rest but slightly indisposed. In the morning he was found dead in his bed.

Towards the close of this year, and in the course of 1822, the Cholera continued its ravages in the various provinces of Turkey, in Asia and Persia, being generally communicated by the caravans of merchants, proving that it had lost nothing of its power by cutting off in Shiraz 16,000 persons, out of a population of 40,000, and that in the course of a few days. Throughout this year, as well as in 1823, the disease continued to rage in the countries adjacent on the Caspian Sea, on the shores of the Mediterranean, as in Aleppo, and penetrating as far as the Russian city of Astracan. Whilst thus tracing the progress of the Cholera, from its native seat, towards Europe, it may be well to remark that it continued its ravages with unabated fury in Hindoostan, China, Persia, and especially in the East India islands, for in Java alone 100,000 persons fell victims to it in 1822.

Still progressing, although more slowly, this epidemic visited from 1825 to 1830, Tauris, destroying 5,000 of its inhabitants, advanced to Teflis, the capital of Gesigia, where it was still more fatal; the population was soon diminished from 30,000 to 8,600, by deaths, and migration to avoid the distemper. To avert the spreading mortality, the inhabitants had recourse to religious ceremonies and processions, which, by collecting crowds, only served to extend the disease. Crossing the Russian frontier, it rapidly advanced to-

wards the interior. In two provinces 4,557 persons were seized with the malady, of whom more than a third died.

It appeared a second time at Astracan, and apparently resistless in its course, it pressed onwards with gigantic strides, and in six months, traversing a distance of no less than 900 miles, making dreadful ravages in the intermediate districts.

At Saratoff, all who could ran away; at first the deaths were only four in a day, but they gradually increased to twelve, twenty-eight, and at last to 260; and then in the same gradation became fewer. It was particularly noticed that in the town there dwelt a colony of Moravians, which were guarded by quarantine, these escaped the disease altogether.

It visited Moscow in September of 1830, when energetic measures were instantly instituted by the government, to afford every assistance to the sick, and to oppose the progress of the malady. The city was divided into forty-seven departments, completely insulated one from the other by barriers and guards. Restrictions and precautions heretofore found serviceable in neutralizing or excluding the contagion of Egyptian plague, were rigidly enforced upon all ranks of the people. On the 11th of October, twelve days after its first appear-

ance, 216 cases of Cholera had occurred, and of these seventy-six were fatal. The mortality, however, exceeded even the preceding proportion with the extension of the disease. By the 17th of November, 5,505 cases were returned, and the deaths amounted to 2,908, or more than a half.

In 1831, a violent contagious disease carried off, at least, 12,000 pilgrims at Mecca. The individuals attacked fell down in the street, without any previous illness, and, after violent vomitings, died almost instantly. This visitation was at first considered to be the plague; but the imans repelled this idea, on account of the promise of the Prophet, that pestilence should never visit the Holy City. They preferred attributing it partly to the want of soft water, which had existed for some time in Mecca, and partly to the vengeance of the Deity, at his holy house having been so long violated by the infidel drums and trumpets of the regiments in garrison at Mecca: the latter cause has been removed by the Colonel of the regiment imposing silence on his band. There appears, however, every reason to believe that the disease is no other than the Cholera; and the immense influx of pilgrims from every quarter, including Persia and India, added to the intense heat, (31 deg. Reaumur,) furnishes sufficient causes for the propagation of the epidemic. During the three

days devoted to religious ceremonies, previous to the Bairam *, the whole body of pilgrims remain agglomerated in a dense mass, and do not move even when the rain descends upon them in torrents, and numbers fall dead around them. During these three days the mortality was terrific; and immediately afterwards was still more increased by the feast of Mina, at which every Mussulman kills a sheep, the blood and entrails of which are left to rot on the public ways; thirty thousand of these animals were killed in one day, and the putrefaction resulting increased to such a degree the intensity of infection, that Mina was covered with the dying and the dead, like a field of battle.

Abdin Bey, governor of Mecca and commander of the troops of the viceroy of Egypt, had marched at the head of the pilgrims to Mount Arafat, returning to his palace in the afternoon. He went to bed in perfect health; but at midnight both he and his wife were attacked with cholera, and soon after noon on the following day, both were dead.

The Cholera first appeared in St. Petersburgh, in June, 1831, where the prejudice of the people, as in other places, was very much excited against medical men; the Emperor of Russia, it is said exerted himself in the most praiseworthy manner to

* A yearly festival of the Turks, which they keep after the feast of Ramazan. It is concluded with a solemn prayer against the infidels, and to extirpate Christian princes.

remove their suspicions, and they soon after became grateful to those, who were risking their own lives, to relieve the sufferings of the afflicted; before this the people had been so riotious, as to ill-treat several of the physicians, and one, a German was *killed* by the mob.

In the course of this year, the Cholera visited Poland, and is supposed to have been carried there by the armies of the Russians. It was in April, that, after a victory gained by the Poles over the Russians, the Cholera appeared at Warsaw. In less than a month 2580 cases occurred either in the city or in the Polish camp.

Among the victims in the invading army was its general, Field-Marshal Deibitsch. On the morning of the 9th of June he felt rather poorly, but he seemed to get quite well in the course of the day. He went to bed at ten o'clock, and, although afterwards called up to attend to some business, still seemed well. About two in the morning he felt suddenly ill, and called his attendants; but would not allow them to give any alarm, or even to send for a physician. But about three o'clock, feeling himself getting worse, he consented to have a doctor sent for, who found the General violently affected with cholera. He was bleed, leeches were applied, and strong friction of the skin employed. The General desired all his attendants, except the medical men, to leave his apartment, lest they

should take the disease. About seven, some perspiration was produced, and he was rather easier. He had until this time suffered but little cramp, but had had frequent fits of shivering and then of burning heat, Between seven and eight o'clock he began to have cramps in his legs, and in his stomach and bowels, with excessive pain, until near ten o'clock, when his groans became less frequent, and his strength was seen to be seriously reduced. He died at a quarter past eleven, about nine hours after his first indisposition.

The Cholera, after reaching Poland, soon showed itself in Hungary, Prussia, Austria, and in the Baltic, making its appearance at Riga, Dantzic, Memel, Berlin, Vienna, and Hamburg, where its ravages were awful.

In the month of October, it passed over to ENGLAND, and first made its appearance in Sunderland, where its existence was fully established; when, in few weeks, it carried off 200 souls.

Dr. Daun, one of the London Medical Board, who had been in India, was sent down to find out the real state of the case. The disease in many instances was at first concealed from him; and the medical men's opinions were very various: but he soon declared it was the *true Cholera of India*, this was afterwards confirmed by Drs. Barrey and Russell, who also visited Sunderland, from the central Board of Health in London.

Some have thought that if the people had not been in some parts of the town, so notoriously negligent of cleanliness, and very intemperate in their habits, the Cholera would never have entered the place, and possibly never visited England. This remark may be considered of importance in every place, as cleanliness and temperance are great preventatives.

In Sunderland, as in almost every other maritime place, where Cholera has visited, since it first appeared at Jessore, the first persons attacked were either sailors, or those engaged with them in traffic.

In the beginning of December, the Cholera showed itself in its dreadful and malignant character, at Newcastle.

On Christmas-day it broke out in Gateshead in a most virulent and alarming manner. It is said that the people had kept that day with very great intemperance, from a certain hour on the 26th of December, to the same hour on the 27th, they were forty-four deaths; and in three days from the commencement, about 150 persons were attacked, of whom more than a third part were numbered among the dead. Out of a population of 15,000, forty-four of our fellow-creatures were cut down by the sword of the Almighty in twenty-four hours; and to know that three-fourths of these were strong and healthy only the day before, and a considerable

number of them in a state of intoxication, was to behold a dispensation of his indignation against Sabbath-breaking and intemperance, which struck terror into every heart, and covered every countenance with gloom.

Two medical gentlemen have declared, that nearly all the patients to whom they have been called, were either tipplers, dram-drinkers, or confirmed drunkards.

Since this time, the Cholera has manifested itself in various parts of England, Scotland, and Ireland, where in particular its ravages are very appaling, and continue so to the present time. And although divested of its more alarming features and destructive energy, is yet a subject of just apprehension to all reflecting members of the community.

Accounts up to the beginning of July state, there has been a slight decrease of cases in Dublin. There has also, been an equal decrease of deaths, the cases that have just elasped, are also somewhat more mitigated in their character. In the country, although the sphere of the pestilence is extended, the deaths, according to the returns appear to be on the decline, yet, still the deaths are from forty to fifty daily. In Dublin and the adjacent villages, Kingstown, Howth, &c., the deaths since the commencement, in fourteen weeks, have amounted to

nearly 2000. In Cork, including Cove and Clonakilty, about 1000.

Among the recent victims to Cholera in Belfast, we have to mention, Doctor Buchanan, physician to the Cholera Hospital of the Ballymacarrett district. His death took place on the 11th of July, and has excited much sorrow, and occasioned considerable alarm. During the day, on Tuesday, he felt slightly unwell, but no decided symptoms of cholera were manifested until about nine o'clock in the evening. The disease ran through its various stages with a rapidity and virulence that baffled every effort to control it; and, at a few minutes before eight o'clock on the following morning, the sufferer expired.

In Liverpool, the Cholera is extending its ravages daily, lately the ship Brutus commanded by Capt. Neilson, sailed from thence, and had 330 passengers on board. The services of a clergyman and surgeon were engaged, and every thing promised a favourable and pleasant voyage. No symptoms of illness were evinced till Monday, the 28th of May, when a man was seized with illness, and the principal symptoms of malignant cholera soon manifested themselves. This man, by the application of prompt remedies, soon recovered; but the next case, that of a woman, proved fatal. A child only a few days old, soon followed; and on the

29th several died. The disease continued to prevail; and on the 3d of June, thirteen bodies were committed to the deep, when despair seemed to sit on every visage. On Monday, the deaths swelled in their amount, and the captain finding himself deprived of the services of his second mate, carpenter, and steward, thought it in accordance with his duty to bear up for Cork, but finding that impossible, he altered his course for Liverpool, and arrived on Friday morning, and was immediately reported. The deaths amounted to seventy-nine, and two having died after coming into port, leaves the amount of mortality eighty-one individuals since the disease broke out.

The merciful restraint under which this fearful disease has hitherto visited this country, and particularly our large towns, calls loudly for our most grateful acknowledgment, but let us "rejoice with trembling," as we can by no means conclude that the danger is past; the same *pestilential atmosphere* which has visited the other parts of the world may be permitted to revisit us. Its virulence has already been extended to FRANCE, and Paris in particular, where in a few weeks not fewer than 30,000 souls have been hurried to give in their account before God. Intelligence recently received from Paris is more favourable; the deaths announced in one day amounted to 144, being, as

compared with those stated in the bulletin of the preceeding day, a diminution of eighty-one.

At present the pestilence is more widely diffusing itself in this country, and is slowly on the advance; it has extended itself to our eastern and western shores. A month or two since it was contended by one party, and denied by another, that a case of Asiatic Cholera had appeared in Devonport. In spite of all efforts the disorder has continued silently and insidiously to work its way into the adjoining town of Plymouth. In Canterbury, Feversham, and Broadstairs, several deaths have occurred; at the latter place a gentleman from London was taken ill and died—all in the short space of a few hours.

In the north its ravages have been felt in Hull, Goole, Selby, York, Doncaster, Leeds, Huddersfield, Wakefield, Sheffield, Gainsborough, Manchester, Preston, Warrington, Carlisle, and other places.

In London the Cholera has again showed itself more extensively in various parts of the city, numbers of respectable people daily fall victims to the malady. Mr. Hirschell, son of the highly respectable Dr. Hirschell, chief priest of the Jews, who came over to this country on a visit to his Father, died lately of the Cholera, after six hours' illness. He had come from Gallicia,

in Austrian Poland. Mr. Williams, of the Angel Inn, St. Clement's, died of the cholera on the 20th of July. He was attacked at nine o'clock in the morning, and died before three the same day. Mr. Scott, brother-in-law to the Earl of Oxford, and his Majesty's Consul at Bourdeaux, died at the house of Lord Dacre, in Chesterfield-street, of a rapid attack of the Cholera. The Hon. Mrs. Robt. Smith, lady of the son of the Earl of Carrington, remarkable for her beauty and accomplishments, was attacked by Cholera at twelve o'clock, and died within twelve hours.

Whether this disease be contagious or not, is a subject of importance, and one which will require a vast experience unequivocally to determine; but where the slightest gleam of doubt remains it is surely better to adopt the means usual for the purpose of preventing its propagation. By availing ourselves of every precationary measure we may preserve the lives of thousands of our fellow-creatures. The Bengal report states no precautionary steps were taken by the medical officers in Bengal, who concurred, without a dessentient voice in declaring that Cholera was not contagious. An eminent physician has observed, "Whether it be contagious or not contagious; whether it be introduced from Hamburgh, Russia, or India; or whether it be immediately from heaven, I take not upon me to say. But it does

appear to be an attack made directly on the vital functions of the body, by which the power of generating heat is lost. And unless that power, by the blessing of God upon the use of means, can be restored, the sufferer must inevitably die in a short time."

Various accounts have stated that Jews have not been heard off as suffering from the Cholera, and that their safety arises from their not eating pork, but Dr. Rehmann, of Petersburgh, who fell a victim to the Cholera, declared that the disease was particularly dangerous to the Jews of that country, who lived in small rooms, and in extreme filth, that in one obscure town, out of 800 that were sick, 700 died in one week.

The mortality is the greatest in the most populous and commercial towns, and in these the disease breaks out oftenest. The partial irruptions of Cholera in the principal towns of the presidency of Bengal amounted to 200 in fourteen years, namely, from 1817 to 1830; in that of Madras the number is 178 in the same period; in the presidency of Bombay it amounts to fifty-five, thus making a total of 433 visitations of the Cholera in the cities of Indostan in fourteen years. During this short period, Calcutta has been attacked fourteen times, or once every year, Madras nine times, Bombay twelve times. After the capitals, the largest and most commercial towns suffered next, as Benares, Dacca, Dinapore, &c.

Thus we have witnessed in our days the birth of a new pestilence, which, in the short space of fourteen years, has desolated a great portion of our globe, and swept off at least FIFTY MILLIONS of our race; and it has been estimated, with tolerable correctness, that no less than THREE MILLIONS OF HUMAN BEINGS, have in some *single years* been sacrificed to its fury. It has mastered every variety of climate, surmounted every natural barrier, conquered every people. It has not, like the simoom, blasted life, and then passed away; the cholera, like the small-pox or plague, takes root in the soil which it has once possessed. The circumstances under which the individual is attacked are no less appalling than the history of the progress and mortality of the disease. In one man, says an eye-witnesss *, the prostration of strength was so great that he could hardly move a limb, though he had been but fifteen minutes before in perfect health, and actively employed in his business of a gardener. "As an instance," says another, "a Lascar, in the service of an officer, was seized in the act of packing up his rice, previous to going out to cut grass, close to his master's tent, and being unable to call for assistance, he was observed by another person at a distance from him, picking up small stones and pitching them

* Madras Report, p. 50.

towards him, for the purpose of attracting his notice. This man died in an hour."

Total Number of Cases and Deaths, in England and Scotland, to 21th July, 1832;

Cases since the commencement, ... 20,336.
Total Deaths, ... 7,570.

The Cholera Morbus having now assumed such an alarming aspect in this country, all cautions and observations respecting its prevention, symptoms, and cure are, of importance, the editor, in these pages, has chiefly confined himself to *historical details;* availing himself, however, of official documents, he cannot omit presenting the reader with extracts from the London Gazette, October, 1831, and July, 1832: also, with an important paper published by the Board of Health, and sanctioned by the name of the president, Sir Henry Halford.

The quarantine laws will, it is hoped, be a sufficient guard in all regular communications. The greatest danger is from smuggling. This is an inlet which nothing but the good sense, humanity, and self-interest of the community can protect. To avoid all clandestine communication with suspicious places, is therefore most solemnly and

earnestly recommended, as an indispensable duty to every inhabitant of the British empire.

Cleanliness is particularly recommended, especially in narrow and crowded streets. Decayed vegetables, rags, cordage, waste paper, old clothes, and dirty walls and furniture, are instruments to receive, retain, and communicate infection. The removal of these, constant washing, and ventilation, are among the best securities against this mortal disease. Dissipation, irregular habits, and the indulgence in *ardent spirits,* have also been found to furnish the greater numbers of victims.

It is also recommended, that, in every large town, persons be appointed to watch the first appearance of the malady. These are immediately to give notice to medical men, who will communicate with the Board of Health in London. Houses also should be provided in the vicinity of each place, to which the afflicted may be instantly removed, to prevent the spread of contagion.

The Supplement to the Gazette, on Tuesday, July 20, 1832, contains an Order in Council, vesting new powers in the several Boards of Health throughout the country, in order that they may more effectually check the progress of the Cholera, by causing the cleansing and whitewashing of any house in which there exist dangerous impurities; and by supplying medicines to the sick poor at their own habitations, in all cases

where those afflicted with the disease cannot be conveniently removed to the Cholera Hospital; also to effect the removal of any offal or filth, from any slaughter-house, and effectually to wash and cleanse the same in any city, town, or popular district, to engage medical inspectors to visit and report upon the sanitary state of health, of all lodging-houses kept for the reception of vagrants; also for the purpose of opening and scouring any such drains, or water-courses, and of closing and covering up such open drains, ditches, and cess-pools, as being likely to be prejudicial to the public health; also to remove all swine, decayed fruits, vegetables, all putrid fish, and any other corrupt or offensive, and dangerous matter, placed, deposited, or kept within twenty yards of any house, or habitation.

The said Board of Health have full power and authority, to burn and destroy, or cause to be burnt and destroyed, such clothes, bedding, or any other articles belonging to, or used by those who may die of the Cholera. All police and peace-officers, all constables and headboroughs are required to assist in the execution of this order.

"*Board of Health, College of Physicians, October* 20, 1831.

"The following are the early symptoms of the disease in its most marked form, as it occurred to

the observation of Dr. Russell, and Dr. Barry, at St. Petersburgh, corroborated by the accounts from other places where the disease has prevailed :—

"Giddiness, sick stomach, nervous agitation, intermittent, slow or small pulse, cramps beginning at the tops of the fingers and toes, and rapidly approaching the trunk, give the first warning.

"Vomiting or purging, or both these evacuations, of a liquid like rice-water or whey, or barley water, come on; the features become sharp and contracted; the eye sinks, the look is expressive of terror and wildness; the lips, face, neck, hands, and feet, and, soon after, the thighs, arms, and whole surface, assume a leaden, blue, purple, black, or deep brown tint, according to the complexion of the individual, varying in shade with the intensity of the attack. The fingers and toes are reduced in size, the skin and soft parts covering them are wrinkled, shrivelled, and folded; the nails put on a bluish pearly white; the larger superficial veins are marked by flat lines of a deeper black; the pulse becomes either small as a thread, and scarcely vibrating, or else totally extinct.

"The skin is deadly cold, and often damp, the tongue always moist, often white and loaded, but flabby and chilled, like a piece of dead flesh. The voice is nearly gone; the respiration quick, irregular, and imperfectly performed. The patient speaks in a whisper. He struggles for breath, and

often lays his hand on his heart, to point out the seat of his distress. Sometimes there are rigid spasms of the legs, thighs, and loins. The secretion of urine is totally suspended; vomiting and purging, which are far from being the most important or dangerous symptoms, and which, in a very great number of cases of the disease have not been profuse, or have been arrested by medicine early in the attack, succeed.

"It is evident that the most urgent and peculiar symptom of this disease is the sudden depression of the vital powers; proved by the diminished action of the heart, the coldness of the surface and extremities, and the stagnant stage of the whole circulation. It is important to advert to this fact, as pointing out the instant measures which may safely and beneficially be employed where medical aid cannot immediately be procured. All means tending to restore the circulation and maintain the warmth of the body should be had recourse to without delay. The patients should always immediately be put to bed, wrapped up in hot blankets, and warmth should be sustained by other external applications, such as repeated frictions with flannels and camphorated spirits; poultices of mustard and linseed, (equal parts) to the stomach, particularly where pain and vomiting exist; similar poultices to the feet and legs, to restore their warmth. The returning heat of the body may be

promoted by bags containing hot salt or bran applied to different parts of it. For the same purpose of restoring and sustaining the circulation, white wine whey, with spice, hot brandy and water, or sal volatile, in the dose of a tea-spoonful in hot water, frequently repeated, or from five to twenty drops of some of the essential oils, as peppermint, cloves, or cajeput, in a wine-glass of water, may be administered; with the same view, where the stomach will bear it, warm broth with spice may be employed. In very severe cases, or where medical aid is difficult to be obtained, from twenty to forty drops of laudanum may be given, in any of the warm drinks previously recommended.

"These simple means are proposed as resources in the incipient stage of the disease, where medical aid has not yet been obtained.

"In reference to the further means to be adopted in the treatment of this disease, it is necessary to state, that no specific remedy has yet been ascertained; nor has any plan of cure been sufficiently commended by success, to warrant its express recommendation from authority. The Board have already published a detailed statement of the methods of treatment adopted in India, and of the different opinions entertained as to the use of bleeding, emetics, calomel, opium, &c. There is reason to believe that more information on this subject may be obtained from those parts of the continent

where the disease is now prevailing; but even should it be otherwise, the greatest confidence may be reposed in the intelligence and zeal which the medical practitioners of this country will employ in establishing an appropriate method of cure.

"HENRY HALFORD,
"President of the Board."

CHOLERA IN AMERICA.

We are sorry to find by the information from Canada, reaching down to the very recent date of the 20th of June, that the Cholera is raging in the Lower Province to a great extent, and serious apprehensions were entertained, from the extreme number of the cases of persons who had already suffered from this scourge, it would soon find its way to Upper Canada, where it was more likely to be the more quickly communicated, in consequence of the caution observed by many in hastening from Quebec.

The following letter will give a more particular account of the disease visiting those shores :—

Quebec, June 20, 1832.

"Sir,—Having made the tour of the state of New York, on my way to Upper Canada, where I spent some weeks, I afterwards descended the St. Lawrence, to Montreal and Quebec. At the time

I was in the former city, it was in general healthy, although there had been rather a severe winter in the province, and there was little rumour or fear of the cholera entertained: but on my arrival at Quebec, on the 4th inst., rumours began to be afloat of the approach of the disease, and that it had actually appeared in the city. These rumours to the present have been fearfully confirmed, for people have been dying every hour since. On the 12th instant the disease had assumed a truly terrific aspect, for there were thirty-seven deaths that day, and on the 13th an equal number fell a sacrifice to the distemper; on the 14th no less than twenty-seven died before breakfast, while yesterday between forty and fifty died. The mortality is truly deplorable, and is heightened by the swiftness of the disease, which generally puts a period to existence in five or six hours. I knew an instance of a person who died in three hours after the first attack. The hospital where the patients are conveyed, on being affected, is crowded to suffocation, and I have no doubt that death is in many cases not only hastened, but brought on by the nauseous and contageous atmosphere of that place. The other day, about thre p. m., happening to see two bodies carried to the Roman Catholic church in the high town, previous to interment. I entered the church to hear the ceremony, but the moment the bodies were brought in, the effluvium was so

strong that I was obliged to retreat instantly, and on inquiry was informed that they had only died that morning; and in returning home I met with another funeral, and was obliged to hold my nose in passing, the effluvium was such. Coffins are sold here ready made, and are to be seen carried in all directions, both full and empty. Having three days ago taken my passage home, I at night got on board, as I was of opinion I should be safer there than on shore; and on going on shore yesterday to purchase a few necessaries for the voyage, I was informed a man had died during the night, in Champlain-street, which is just the focus of the disease: it was in this street the first case of cholera presented itself. There are persons appointed by the authorities, with medals suspended by broad red ribbons round their necks, who go to each respective house with carts to strew lime about it, and to enquire for the dead; and hearing that any are ill, they are forthwith carried to the hospital.

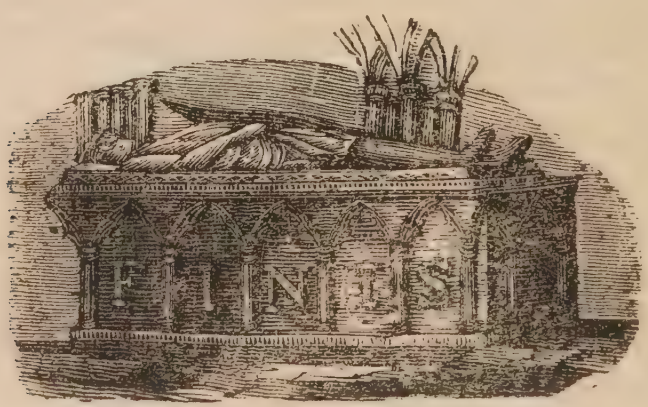
"M. le Mensurer, a merchant of respectability here, informed me, that three merchants opposite to his counting-house died on the 13th inst. Among the dead on the 14th, I regret to have to mention Judge Keer, and a lawyer, who were summoned to their account, after a few hours illness. The disease has even got to the vessels at anchor in the river. On the 14th, two men were taken out of the

Catherine, and one out of the Lord of the Isles, at anchor here, and were carried to the hospital, where they died shortly. The mate of the Lord of the Isles died yesterday, and on our captain sending a boat to the Zephir on some business, they were told the mate and three men were lying ill. Our captain was on shore yesterday, and was informed that 48 coffins were lying in the hospital sheds filled, besides empty ones ready to receive the bodies, as the breath went out. There are in all about 380 persons dead of the disease here, besides about 100 cases more not decided whether they will live or die. And, I can add, that the labourers refuse to go on board of the ships at anchor in the river, to load them with the timber, in deals and rafts now alongside, from Upper and Lower Canada. Thus in a few days business will be completely at a stand in this quarter of the world. In conclusion I may remark, that it is chiefly people in indigent circumstances, or of drunken habits, who are attacked by cholera here. The filth in which the common people live is very great, besides, at present, the houses are greatly crowded by the emigrants, who are daily arriving in great numbers. Not only they, but the native Canadians of the lower order live frequently six or eight in a small room in a state of the utmost wretchedness."

Additional information has been received by the

Ceres, of London, which lately arrived at Limerick, from Quebec; she sailed on the 21st of June. "The town was in the most deplorable state from the cholera morbus. Houses, shops, stores, and counting-house, shut up and deserted; only two clerks remaining at the Custom-house. Numbers of persons dying in the streets; most of the hospitals are shut up, for want of doctors and persons to attend them; the ships half loaded could not find people to load them."

Some of the private letters state the number of cases of Cholera already reported amount to 800, and the deaths to something more than half. There is no official report to this effect from the Board of Health at Quebec, and we imagine that the fears of the parties from whom the accounts are derived have induced them rather to exaggerate than otherwise the effects of this disease.



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